Gwadar seaport in Pakistan

2178. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a modern new sea port "Gwadar" is being constructed by Pakistan in Baluchistan with Chinese collaboration;

(b) whether it is a fact that Gwadar port would provide Pakistan Navy much greater strategic manoeuvrability along the Arabian sea *vis-a-vis* India, as compared to that at their existing port at Karachi;

(c) salient details thereof; and

(d) whether Government are contemplating any project with a view to strengthen facilities for Indian Navy in the light of emergence of the "Gwadar" port in Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Strategic location of Gwadar Sea Port would enable the Pakistan Navy to shorten its sea lanes of communication and keep it open specially from Gulf. It will also offer additional berthing facilities for the entire Pakistan Navy fleet.

(d) Government has already taken appropriate measures to strengthen Indian Navy in the light of changing scenario in the region and the threat perceptions.

Training of Defence Personnel under IMETP

2179. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Indian Defence personnel undergoing or about to undergo training in future in different countries under the International Military Education and Training Programme; and

(b) how would this training help the Indian Government to combat terrorism and other evils that plague the nation and our borders?